

In The Specification

Page 9, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 and ending at line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

A2
The clipping device 24 is provided with at least one slot [49] 48 for receiving secured together (knotted) end portions 32 of a string loop 34 so that when the clip 26 moves down the channel 33 it engages the string loop 34 and carries it down a slot [49] 48 to a restriction 72 of the food casing 12 and traps it between the clip 26 and food casing 12 at a location on the loop portion of the string 30 near the secured together portions 32 of the string 30, usually a knot, so that the string 30 cannot be pulled free without pulling the knot under the clip. The stuffed food casing chub 11 can thus be reliably hung from the string loop 34.

Pages 9 and 10, please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9 at line 19 and ending on page 10 at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

A3
As best seen in Figures 5 and 6, a tape 28 is provided that carries string loops 34 - formed from string 30 to be transferred to clipping device 24 so that the clip 26 draws the string loop 34 to the casing 12 and holds it there between a major portion 50 of the loop 34 and secured together end portions 32 of string 30. Tape 28 is provided from a supply roll 36, around idler rolls 40, an edge 42, a drive roll 52, and a takeup roll 53 to a collection reservoir 55. As the tape moves around edge 42, [~~strings~~] string loops are freed from the tape primarily due to the sharp bending of the tape. As the loops are freed, the secured together end portions 32 enter into slot [49] 48 in the clipping device 24. The movement of the drive roll 52 is timed so that a loop is released in time to be caught by a clip descending in channel 33 so that it is carried to the casing 12 and trapped between clip 26 and casing 12. An air source 43 is preferably provided to assist in directing the end portion 32 into the entry 46 of slot [49] 48.

Page 10, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 and ending at line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

A4
In a preferred embodiment, string loops 34 are supplied on a tape 28 which may be almost any fabric or film but is usually a synthetic or natural film such as polyethylene or regenerated cellulose. The string loops 34 are loosely attached to the tape 28, usually by means of a release type contact cement. This permits the loops 34 to be stored and transported on the tape 28 yet also permits the loops 34 to be easily removed by pulling the tape 28 around the edge 42, where the edge 42 either interposes between the string loop 34 and the tape 28 or preferably simply contacts and sharply bends the tape 28 on a surface opposed to the surface on which the string loops 34 are attached to release the loops 34 secured together end portions (knot) 32 first so that the secured together end portions 32 enter the slot [49] 48 in the clipper.
